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HITLER'S TRAGEDY.

by

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This has been in Britain a week of striking events. It is as though the curtain had risen on the third act of this drama of war, the principal author of which is Mr. Hitler. Whether we shall have a fourth act to this drama, I don't know. It may be that the climax, the crucial moment of the tragedy, will be reached in this third act—but however far the drama is prolonged after that the end will be defined to us—we shall know roughly its shape. I believe this is how it will be.

WHAT HITLER SAID AND SAYS.

The author, Mr. Hitler, obviously thinks the drama will last some time yet. He's been warning his supporters, who occupy already uncomfortable seats, that they have got to sit through another bitter winter, nine months hence, and he's been telling them that the additional horror is going to be piled on for our benefit. We are, of course, well acquainted with his methods, both his dialogue and his threats. We may be said to be somewhat inured to them. The threat, followed by the squeal, presents us no surprise; nor does his inconsistency astonish us. That he should have directed one of his puppets to say in February that the bombing of British towns is simply not worth while; that the *Luftwaffe* will never again be wasted on this; and no British air action against German towns can henceforth entice Germany into reprisals;—that he should have said that three months back, and that now,

a week ago, he should have ordered another puppet to declare that he has been busy, reading up his Baedaker to find out which are our noble buildings, in order that he might send his bombers to destroy them—This doesn't, so to speak, break any new ground for us.

WHAT HITLER HAS DONE.

We, and you, and the whole world, are well acquainted with him. We know that if he thinks that it will profit him to demolish a Cathedral, or a broad stretch of beauty, or machine-gun the resort mainly inhabited by the old or the sick, or by children, he won't hesitate—that's part of the doctrine—those are his articles of faith. We learned all about them a considerable time ago, so that it was no surprise to us that this week he tried to turn his bombers on to the city of Bath—the city which Landor called the English Corinth; or that he machine-gunned and dropped high explosives on the Cathedral city of York, and paid two visits to ancient Norwich. He described them as reprisal raids—reprisals for our R. A. F's raids on Lubeck and Rostock. This man of many delusions appears to think that if he demolishes the beautiful crescent in Bath, and other beautiful monuments of a day when men were less barbarous than now, we shall withhold our bombs from his factories making Heinkel aircraft; and that if his aircraft blow up York minster, we should not pay a second visit to Augsburg, near Munich, where he makes his submarine engines.

BRITAIN CAN TAKE IT.

I needn't say to you that he is wrong in this, as he is in most other things. We don't like Bath being badly damaged, or York, or Norwich—We didn't like bombs on the House of Commons, or Westminster Abbey, or Buckingham Palace—or on the East End of London, where our working-folk live. Personally, I detest this bombing from the air. I look up on it as a degradation of mankind, as it bends towards the primitive. But it was Mr. Hitler's own creation; he developed it at that time to unexampled efficiency—he'd done this work. We grew familiar, during the winter of 1940, not with 20, or 50, or 80 German aircraft, coming over to these shores. There was an enormous number of fires buring in London at one time. We stood all that—we didn't enjoy it—we endured it with agony and bloody sweat, and our enemies found it didn't achieve its purpose. Taxis plied for hire in the streets of old London while shrapnel rang on the pavement, and nurses, carrying children out of bombed hospitals, told them: 'we are taking you to see the searchlights'. Little old women in the West End, when half their street had been turned into a bomb crater, and half the neighbourhood lay in ruins, said they 'd move, perhaps, if things got any worse. Those were the people of London at the time, when hundreds, nay, thousands were being killed by German bombs, when civilian clothes became the uniform of soldiers.

And the enemy gave it up in despair. **They didn't cease from motives of human kindness—they stopped because the results were not worth the cost, and because our Russian friends began to take a hand; and now they 've begun, once more. After a quiet period of 11 months—they have begun again.**

The folk of this country who are enduring the onslaught, are enduring it as London did, 18 months ago. The beautiful city of Bath is not as it was—one or two Georgian Crescents, down which the gallant dead of Admiral Nelson's day walked, are no more. Somebody has said the city is now like a piece of fine old lace that's been dirtied in the gutter. But the morning after it was bombed, about 25 hardy old ladies and gentlemen, suffering from rheumatism, turned up as usual at the Pump Room to drink their water. In the park at Bath a handful of people slept out, trying to turn bed clothes into tents; and lovely staircases of old premises were shattered with bombs, when all else round those staircases had fallen down. And over the ancient sign: 'Entrance to the Roman Bath' are two others now:—'You can rest here', and 'Hot meals a shilling'.

The spirit is the same as that of London, or Coventry or Sheffield—yes, or the spirit of Norwich or York. Old folk, being driven out of Norwich, called out: 'We 'll be back soon', and the leading article in Norwich's morning paper said: 'We can't reply to barbarism with barbarism. If Norwich Cathedral were destroyed, it would be no answer to bomb Cologne's people'. Thus speaks the heart of East Anglia. What we have to do, that paper says, is to note this as evidence of the desperation of the man, and to resolve to dispose of him as soon as possible. The *Manchester Guardian* comments referring to the Hitler methods: 'Sentiment and passion are the poorest military adviser.' I don't think we have much intention of giving way to the one or the other, as Mr. Hitler does. **The bombing of Germany's war industries, of their ports, and shipyards, is a long term military policy, from which we shall not be turned by assaults on our noble buildings, or shouts of rage from Mr. Hitler, because he and his people are now learning what it is to have destruction hurled on them from the skies.**

'NEGLECT NO MEANS.'

Oliver Cromwell had a saying:—'Neglect no means', and we are taking that to heart. The situation is not the same as it was when London was bombed. Our aircraft are bigger and our bombs are bigger. No town in Britain, not even Coventry, has been hit as hard in one night as we hit Lubeck, one of the coastal ports for Hitler's war supplies to his front in Russia. Our Stirlings, our Lancasters, our Manchesters, our Halifaxs, are bigger bombers, and can carry more weight by far than anything Germany has yet sent to this country. Each can carry two or three times as many tons of bombs as the Heinkels which so far, have come to Britain. Germany is building heavier bombers, of course; that's one reason why we took particular

care to lay waste the Heinkel factory at Rostock. Indeed, we paid four visits there within a week. During the six nights on which we have taken the trouble to prepare a comparison from the 23rd to the 29th of April, we dropped six tons of bombs on Germany for every ton they dropped in Britain. That's the full reason for Mr. Hitler's cries of rage. He and his people are tasting their own medicines, and the taste is bitter, nor is the dose we administer likely to diminish.

THE THIRD ACT.

There's no doubt the enemy are much shaken by this bombing offensive. That's one reason why Mr. Hitler hurried back from Russia. He said, you remember, he was going to stay there till Russia was disposed of. He came to make a speech, saying that he now assumes power of life or death over every German. Well, he had that power before, and to how many hundreds of thousands has it meant death. This is the peace he has brought them. What can those who live think now of his infallibility? This Germany which was never going to be bombed, is being blasted by bombs unequalled in devastating effect. He sends fcr Mussolini, whose troops and his, on the sands and storms of Libya, where they fight side by side, make no secret of their mutual detestation. What comfort could he gather from Mussolini, or the Duce from him? The Duce is now little more than his jailer of a country he has surrendered to the Gestapo.

No! The author of this most terrible drama of war can hardly be pleased with the beginning of this third act. He must feel that it is getting a little out of hand. His characters will not do his bidding; his lines are going astray. This is the moment when the great oration of victory was to have been uttered, but those unaccountable noises off, that artificial thunder and lightning, at Lubeck, Rostock, Cologne, Trondheim, Hamburg, the Ruhr, Kiel, is drowning his words. Success was to come to him from the sky, and instead, from the sky, comes shattering attack.

HITLER WILL NOT HAVE THE FINAL WORD.

It's a pity that Mr. Kipling isn't alive to-day, to make a song of our Stirlings, Whitleys, Wellingtons, Hampdens, Manchesters, Bostons, and Lancasters—but these aircraft make their own words as they cleave the night, and fly over those hundreds of miles of North Sea, and through the streams of coloured shells and bullets, and defeat them, and the words are simple:—it's as though the drone of the engines, rising and falling slightly in rhythm, murmur: 'It's you, you, you, who by your actions created us, and you, who must now take back what you have given.' The roar and drone of the bombers will continue to drown Mr. Hitler's words, and it is not he, the author of this drama, who will speak the final word from the stage when the tragedy is ended.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

30—5—42 to 5—6—42.

Libya has come back into the news. After the lull of weeks and months it has become the scene of a fierce battle again.

The battle began on May 26, when General Rommel started an offensive, issuing an order of the day which boastingly declared the launching of a 'decisive attack' with 'superior numbers', a 'perfected armament' and a 'powerful air-force.' From captured documents it was known that TOBRUK was his objective, while his immediate plans proved to be first, the capture of BIR HAKHEIM, secondly, and simultaneously; the outflanking BIR HAKHEIM, and thirdly, a drive to the coast between GAZALA and CAPUZZO.

The Italians who were in charge of the first plan were soon beaten back. On the night of May 26—27, the enemy passing round BIR HAKHEIM moved north towards ACROMA, EL DUDA and SIDI RAZEGH. Some Axis tanks reached the coast road, and the same night the enemy also attempted a landing by sea at the same spot; but he was driven back both on land and sea.

On May 27, the enemy tried to carry out the third part of his plan which was to hew a way to the coast road. Throughout May 28, 29 and 30 the struggle continued fiercely but without effect. The battle raged to and fro over a wide area, from ACROMA in the north to BIR HAKHEIM in the south, and from EL ADEM in the east to the British minefields 30 miles to the west.

Running short of supplies and forced back, the enemy cut two gaps in the British minefields, one on the CAPUZZO Road and another 10 miles to the south, but his retreat was continually hampered. By May 31, however, he managed to remove some of his tanks and supplies 20 miles westward, while large quantities still remained behind. The alternative open to him at present is to escape or be annihilated. In the words of Mr. Churchill the battle is not yet over, but 'there is no shadow of doubt that Rommel's plans for his initial offensive have gone completely awry, and that his failure has cost him dear in men and material.' Rommel has been 'out-thought' and 'out-fought.'

Rommel has started a second offensive over the ten-mile area in the gaps of the Allied minefield along the GAZALA line. His supply lines are being harassed by British forces from ROTUNDA SEGUALI.

China.—KINHWA was evacuated on May 30. The enemy has attacked LANCHI and occupied SHONCHANG and LUNGYA. Furious fighting is raging at PINGYANSHAN. The Chinese have retaken SOOCHANG, SHENGSHIEN and YUNGKIANG. They are also attacking ICHANG in HUPEH province and near SINYANG in S. HONAN. In YUNNAN, after crossing the Salween, the Chinese have encircled the enemy at TENGCHUNG and LUNGLING, and recaptued MINCHANG, KAIL.

In a broadcast on June 1, Chiang Kai-Shek gave the assurance that if given 10 per cent of the equipment produced by AMERICA the Chinese army will give 100 per cent results.

A Lease-Lend Agreement was signed on Tuesday at WASHINGTON, laying down the conditions of American aid to CHINA. Under this agreement CHINA will be able to increase her resistance.

On the same day, Mr. Attlee, on behalf of the British Government, assured the House of Commons of BRITAIN's determination to give all possible aid to CHINA.

Chuhsien and Dutch Harbour.—The Japanese have launched a severe attack on CHUHSIEN a large aerodrome, 50 miles west of KINHWA, and raided DUTCH HARBOUR, the American base in the ALUITIANS. They appear to be in the nature of reprisal raids for the American raid on TOKYO seven weeks earlier. The American planes may have taken off at DUTCH HARBOUR and landed at CHUNGSIEN after the raid on TOKYO.

South-West Pacific.—Against the enemy's attack on MORESBY during the week should be set the R.A.A.F.'s raids on RABAUL, LAE, SALAMUA, SOLOMONS, DILLI and HOOD BAY. U.S. Submarines damaged a Japanese heavy cruiser, and sank a large enemy auxiliary vessel and a freighter. In an attemped unsuccessful attack on SYDNEY, the enemy lost three of his midget submarines, while the damage caused in the harbour was only the loss of a small vessel of no military value.

Speaking in confident tones, Mr. Curtin, Australia's Prime Minister stated on June 1, "JAPAN finds her most southerly venture beyond her capacity. The Japanese programme of expansion has reached a stalemate, and even according to JAPAN's own plans the initiative was not o decisively with TOKYO".

Burma.—The R.A.F. was busy during the week, raiding Norther and Southern BURMA, the principal targets being RANGOON, MYITKYINA KALEWA and AKYAB.

India.—Speaking on June 1, at KOTAGIRI, and alluding to the prospects of an invasion of INDIA, H. E. the Governor of MADRAS observed: 'Six weeks ago the danger was real. But the Japanese did not attack INDIA as expected. No one could say whether they would attack North INDIA or South INDIA or CEYLON; but he could say, certainly, without fear of contradiction, that the defence arrangements in INDIA were such as to meet the enemy at any time and anywhere. Planes and munitions were still coming, and the Indian Navy had been considerably augmented. There was still the danger of air raids in coastal areas, and people should therefore be on the alert'.

Russia.—The Battle of the Bulge round IZIUM has become stabilised. German counter-attacks near KHARKOV have failed. An enemy attempt on May 29, to cross a river, presumably the Donetz, did not succeed. The German claim to have captured three Russian armies near KHARKOV is untrue. Timoshenko is still in a position to take the initiative at any point along the 2,000 mile front.

Mammoth Raids—Cologne and Essen;—As events have shown, the week has proved essentially an R. A. F. week: On May 28 East PRUSSIA was raided; on May 29, the Gnome-Rhone works near PARIS, a convoy off the Dutch Coast, and Northern FRANCE were attacked; on May 30, 'the greatest raid in World's history was carried out on COLOGNE,' with 1,000 bombers—all British-owned and British-manned, dropping 3,000 tons of bombs in an hour and a half, resulting in 20,000 killed and 54,000 wounded; and on June 1st, another colossal raid was made on ESSEN with 1,036 machines. The results have been devastating and far-reaching. About 200,000 people are being evacuated from COLOGNE. In the opinion of Air Experts, 'air history' has been made, and an offensive has been started which is bound to have a decisive influence on the course of the war during the next few months.

These attacks are a fulfilment of Mr. Churchill's promise of attacking 'city by city', and Sir Archibald Sinclair, Secretary of State for Air has since given the assurance that 'BRITAIN'S next bombing climax will be more tremendous still.' Mr. Churchill himself told the House of Commons on June 2:

'I do not wish it to be supposed that all our raids in the immediate future will be above the four-figure scale. The method of attack will continually be varied according to the circumstances.

"On the other hand, these two great night-bombing raids mark the introduction of a phase in the British air offensive against GERMANY, and this will increase rapidly in scale when we are joined, as we soon shall be, by the UNITED STATES air force.

"In fact, I may say, as the year advances all German cities, harbours and centres of war production will be subjected to an ordeal the like of which has never been experienced by any country, in continuity, severity, and magnitude."

These are not idle words. The fires in COLOGNE on Saturday night were still blazing on Wednesday. But the Nazis call it a 'nuisance raid', and in cowardice aud brutality have carried out a 'reprisal raid' on the ancient cathedral town of CANTERBURY. In spite of the savage nature of the attack the casualties and damage at CANTERBURY have been slight.

Greece.—Appaling famine prevails in GREECE owing to Nazi pillage. According to an authenticated secret report made to the U. S. Office of Facts and Figures, people are falling dead in the streets from hunger. A thousand deaths are recorded daily in ATHENS and PIRAEUS.

Bulgaria, Hungary and Rumania.—U. S. has declared war on BULGARIA, HUNGARY and RUMANIA. In moving the Congress to take the step President Roosevelt said :—

'The Governments of BULGARIA, HUNGARY and RUMANIA have declared war against the U. S.

'I realise that the three Governments took this action not on their own initiative, nor in response to the wishes of their own peoples, but as instruments of Hitler.

'These three Governments are now engaged in military activities directed against the United Nations, and planning an extension of their activities.'

Naval.—A large British Convoy, continually attacked by more than a hundred Axis planes from May 25 to May 30, has successfully fought its way through to a North Russian port. The German claim to have sunk 18 ships of the convoy is at least 175 per cent exaggeration.

Miscellaneous.—Heydrich, the Chief of the Gestapo in Occupied Countries is dead.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
25—5—42 (Monday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY—			
Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The aerodrome at TMIMI.			
Transport vehicles in the MARAU region.			
Enemy landing grounds at MARTUBA.			
Motor transport on the road between DERNA and BOMBA.			
SICILY. (By British planes).			
The landing ground at MESSINA.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the whole front.		8 planes.	11 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
Venkanau aerodrome and grounded aircraft at RABAUL.		No loss.	2 planes.
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at LAE.		1 plane.	2 planes.
BURMA. (By American and British planes)			
Barges on the CHINDWIN River.			
26—5—42 (Tuesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Offensive patrols over the CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.	A mine sweeper set on fire.	1 plane.	
LIBYA. (By British planes)			
The aerodrome at TMIMI.			
The landing ground at MARTUBA.			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.			

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire Front.		23 planes.	82 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Air fight over NEW GUINEA.		1 plane.	3 planes.
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Supply and communication bases along the BURMA—YUNNAN border.			
27—5—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy mechanised forces in the BIR HAKHEIM and EL ADEM areas.			
The aerodrome at TMIMI.			
Air combats over CYRENAICA			9 planes.
SICILY. (By British planes.)			
The aerodrome at MESSINA and CATANIA			
The harbour at AUGUSTA.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire front.		13 planes.	60 planes
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA (By Jap planes).			
Air installations at LAE.			
Reconnaissance over SALAMAUA.			
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
A Jetty north of KALEWA on the CHINDWIN River. **Warehoueses** in the vinicity of THAUNGEUT.		No loss.	

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
28—5—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Enemy airfields and railway targets in Northern FRANCE.	4 ships hit.		
An enemy convoy off the DUTCH coast.		1 plane.	
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over forward areas of CYRENAICA.			
An enemy column of tanks and motor transport between BIR HAKHEIM and ACROMA.	Many tanks and vehicles destroyed.		
Enemy landing grounds at MARTUBA.			
Enemy vehicles moving along the road between BENGAZI and JEDABAYA.	3 pilots safe.	5 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.		21 planes.	53 planes.
FAR EAST—NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The harbour and aerodrome at RABAUL.			
29—5—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—			
Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.			
The GNOME-RHONE Aero Engine works, GOOD-RICH Works and other manufacturing plants at GENNIEVILLERS (near PARIS).			
The docks at CHERBOURG and DIEPPE			
Laying mines in enemy waters			
Railway communications in occupied territory.			
An enemy convoy off the FRISIAN islands		13 planes.	
Another convoy off the DUTCH coast.	8 ships hit.		

Date Targe's.	Damage caused by air bombardment	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The aerodrome at TMIMI			
The harbour at BENGHAZI and DERNA.			
The landing ground at DERNA.			
Offensive sweeps in the forward areas			
Mechanised vehicles, tanks and motor lorries near BIR HAKHEIM.	3 pilots safe.	14 planes.	
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire front.		25 planes.	143 planes.
FAR EAST—SOLOMON Islands. (By American and British planes).			
A sea-plane base at TULAGI.			
Anti-aircraft guns and wharves at TANAMBOGA.			
FAR EAST—TIMOR (Dutch). (By American and British planes).			
The harbour at DILLI.			
NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome and harbour at RABAUL.			
30—5—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Military and Industrial targets in the RUHR and RHINELAND.			
COLOGNE (by 1,000 R. A. F. planes).	Greatest damage caused.		
Aerodromes and grounded planes in the occupied countries.		44 planes.	
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Offensive sweeps over the forward areas of CYRENAICA.			

Enemy landing grounds at MARTUBA

Military objectives in the TMIMI area

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Air combats and aircraft on the ground along the entire front.

FAR EAST—TIMOR (Portugese). (By American and British planes).

The aerodrome at KOEPANG

The Port area at DILLI.

FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. ((By American and British planes).

A runaway in the dock area at LAE. — Fires started.

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

Japanese barges in River MAYU

31—5—42 (Sunday).

GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).

DAY:—

Patrol over the ENGLISH CHANNEL.

NIGHT:—

Aerodromes, aircraft on the ground,
Runaways, railways, and goods trains in occupied COUNTRIES.

LIBYA. (By British planes).

Offensive sweeps over the forward areas in CYRENAICA. } 4 planes. 3 more damaged.

Dispersed aircraft in the DERNA area.

Aerodromes at TMIMI and MARTUBA.

The harbour at BENGAZI.

RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).

Air combats and grounded aircraft along the entire battle field.

FAR EAST—BURMA. (By American and British planes).

The docks and shipping at RANGOON.

NEW BRITAIN. (By American and British palnes).

The dock area at RABAUL.

NEW GUINEA (By American and British planes).

The aerodromes and runaways at LAE and SALAMAUA.

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.

26—5—42 (Tuesday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

NIGHT:—

A point on the South-West coast of ENGLAND.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA. — 2 planes.

FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).

No information available.

27—5—42 (Wednesday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

NIGHT:—

A place on the East ANGLIAN coast.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA.

FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).

An aerodrome near Port MORESBY. — 1 plane.

28—5—42 (Thursday).

BRITAIN. (By German planes).

NIGHT:—

No information available.

MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).

MALTA.

LIBYA. (By German planes).

British positions in CYRENAICA. — 3 planes.

FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).

Port MORESBY. — 1 plane. — 7 planes.

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Allies
29—5—42. (Friday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Coastal areas of East and South-east ENGLAND.	Only slight damage.	4 planes.	
LIBYA. (By German planes).			
British positions and supply columns in CYRENAICA.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.			
30—5—42 (Saturday).			
NIGHT :—			
North-east coast of ENGLAND		7 planes.	
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY		5 planes.	
31—5—42 (Sunday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available about day and night operations.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
FAR EAST. (By Jap planes).			
Reconnaissance over Port MORESBY.			
1—6—42 (Monday).			
NIGHT :—			
A place in East ANGLIA, South-east ENGLAND.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
LIBYA. (By German planes).			
British positions in CYRENAICA.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.			

SIDE. LIGHTS.

ANNIHILATIONS. 'News is trickery by which to defeat the enemy : news no longer serves to inform the public' declared clever little Goebbels to the BERLIN graduates on December 1, 1941, and true to the observation the Axis broadcasts are now circulating silly and fantastic stories about General Alexander's withdrawal from BURMA.

General Alexander's army has now crossed over to INDIA intact—a gallant feat of arms worthy of praise at least as much as General Rommel's in the Western Desert a few months ago, when Auchinleck's 8th army drove him hard; and the Allies were not slow to recognise and appreciate Rommel. But the ways of the Axis are different and devious. Further, in General Alexander's case, the withdrawal was not forced as in Rommel's by enemy action; it was necessitated by the fact that the new supply route from INDIA could not be completed before the Monsoon broke: otherwise the resistance in BURMA would and could have been continued. 'General Alexander's Army is in very good shape,' says Wavell, who inspected the troops recently after the withdrawal. He adds, 'the efforts have saved INDIA from what might have been a dangerous situation.' Four-fifths of the Army has come back, and if any transport or tank had to be abandoned it was due to a sudden rise of the Chindwin.

But BERLIN and TOKYO are now vying with each other in the dirty task of fabricating stories of 'annihilation'. The Germans have so misused the term that it has lost all meaning. They 'annihilated' the British at DUNKIRK, the very people who now send a thousand planes to COLOGNE and shower 3,000 tons of bombs in an hour and a half. As early as last autumn they had 'annihilated' the Russians who now drive them back to KHARKOV.

In this disgraceful propaganda BERLIN, even more than JAPAN, has taken the lead. On May 16, it announced the 'annihilation' of General Alexander's army of '200,000 men': on the 17th the Japanese recognising that it was stupid to claim the capture of more men than BRITAIN ever put into the field divided the figure by ten, stating it to be 20,000 but stuck to the word 'annihilation'. On the 18th Dr. Goebbels, for reasons known to himself, increased it to 32,000, but reduced it to 8,000 later on the same day, and a BATAVIA broadcast of the same date came back to 20,000, but this time it was to say they were 'defeated'.

Such are the ways of the Axis Confederates, and the BERLIN broadcast of May 16 blantantly observes, 'The Japanese High Command follows the German High Command, the reports of which are true in every respect'.

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THE MONSOON. One of the questions of the hour is 'whether the Monsoon will stop a Japanese invasion of INDIA. Of course, it would be foolish in modern warfare to count on the weather. The idea that cold or heat or damp would suspend operations has been disproved by the British in LIBYA, the Russians in their own country last winter, and the Japs in MALAYA. A campaign may lose in intensity owing to adverse weather, but will not be abandoned. Even in respect of the

air force, the arm most affected by weather, bombing may continue though less effectively. Storms may impede overseas supplies, and armies that land depending on such supplies may thus be wiped out without a blow. That is why CHUNGKING thinks that Japan would not be so foolish as to attempt to invade India at present.

Moreover, the whole speculation assumes that JAPAN is able at present to undertake a campaign in INDIA. It presumes a warfare of dimensions that JAPAN has never undertaken yet, against the combined might of the United Nations, in a vast country much farther away from its bases than ever before. It also assumes that JAPAN will continue to retain the initiative, and will not herself be attacked. On the other hand, it may be seen that she is now fighting in self-defence in CHINA—fittingly described as a dagger aimed at her heart. It would seem that until CHINA is conquered Japanese aims on INDIA must continue wishful.

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DEFIANT CHINA. And CHINA is defiant. She is not so easy to 'liquidate'. She has no doubt been 'annihilated' several times by the TOKYO radio, as RUSSIA has been by the BERLIN raido. On April 26, TOKYO announced that 'from every stand-point it is impossible for Chiang Kai-Shek to continue the resistance war'. Yet according to reports received on May 2, 4,000 Jap troops were repulsed in HONAN and another 5,000 driven back in SHENSI. On May 2, TOKYO again stated that 'there was serious disunity and extreme scarcity of arms and ammunition inside the Chungking forces', and simultaneously a Jap offensive near HANKOW with 10,000 troops ended in dismal failure. In YUNNAN the enemy finds progress difficult and retreat costly.

'**Imperial Rule Assistance Political Association**' is the flamboyant title of an association newly formed in JAPAN 'to prosecute the greater East Asia war by consolidating the national power'. The aim is to 'construct' a new order of the world by setting up the 'Greater East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere'. The announcement was made in the Diet on May 20, and in Reichstag-fashion the Diet immediately approved the formation of the Association, and all members of the Diet and State officials, except the army and navy Ministers joined it. The object is further stated to be 'to inspire political consciousness among the people', but it is in reality a new instrument to stifle and strangle any internal opposition to the present war policy, and to deceive the world with soft alluring words. Its real intention is betrayed in Japanese broadcasts in Japanese, which place the emphasis on 'Japanese nationalism' and 'Co-Prosperity', which will be promoted by an organisation of 'national industries' national agriculture, national commerce, and various national movements. Of course 'Nation' means 'JAPAN'.

CO-PROSPERITY is being exposed as sheer hypocricy. News has been received from the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES Information Service that all foreigners have been asked to take the oath of loyalty to JAPAN. Asiatics have also to pay a citizenship fee of 100 guilders for every man and 50 guilders for every woman. The Vice-chief of the Government of Singapore has stated, 'They—the British subjects must realise that the mere fact that their lives are almost safeguarded is an enormous favour on the part of JAPAN.

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JAPAN'S ECONOMIC FRONT. JAPAN'S military adventures have sapped her economic strength. Agriculture, which still forms the largest single occupation, supports only less than half of the people, while industry itself which has moved from light to heavy has declined, except for war products. This is due chiefly to shortage of raw-materials. As the most able-bodied are forced into the army, industry and agriculture suffer from shortage of man-power also.

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KHARKOV OFFENSIVE. It is now possible to estimate the important results achieved by the Russians in their KHARKOV offensive. Though Marshal Timoshenko, as the *Daily Express* states, has not won a decisive victory, yet he has secured several gains. Von Bock's army ready for the invasion of the CAUCASUS has been dispersed over a front of 120 miles. The German Spring offensive has been postponed. The Russians have occupied positisons strategically useful for the eventual capture of KHARKOV. The enemy has been forced to switch his aircraft from other sectors in self-defence. A threat has also developed to the flank of the Railway between the Dneiper and UKRAINE, on which the Germans depend for their offensive towards the CAUCASUS.

THE CAUCASUS is still the Will-o-the-wisp of the Germans. 'If the Urals and the CAUCASUS with their invaluable wealth of raw materials,' wrote Hitler long ago in *Mein Kampf*, 'were within the control of Nazi GERMANY it would swim in fat.'

Yes, it would, if it could. But the Russian army has been massed in its defence. All over an area of some 200 miles a net-work of defences has been erected, utilising every marsh, river, wood and hillock, which will immobilise even the hardiest of mechanised invaders. Behind them stand the mass of the Russian army and the organised guerillas.

The CAUCASUS has seen many an invader. It proved the grave of the Kaiser's ambition, and it is going to be Hitler's also. KHARKOV has been described as a cemetery of German tanks, and KHARKOV is the starting point for the CAUCASUS.

GERMANY'S PLIGHT. The following extracts prove the agony that is GERMANY'S :—

1. Dr. Goebbels in Das Reich : 'The frost was our worst enemy. You cannot imagine the difficulties of supplies. The oil in the engines of lorries froze. Horses fell down. Railways were hampered by snow. Thus we were compelled very largely to supply our forces by air.'

'For weeks and months there were no letters for the men from their wives and families. Sometimes there was no food, and the front line was so long that we could not prevent Russians on skis and sledges from slipping through and attacking our supply-lines.'

'The frost, snow and unimaginable hardships have left their traces on every man's face—they became hard and stony. It was a terrible winter—the worst thing that could befall us.

Goering has a different tale of woe. His lament is about German labour. 'I know,' he sobs; 'how hard the men and women on the land find it to-day. Three unbelievably hard winters lie behind us. The condition of the factory workers is desperate because they have to go hither and thither and work beyond their normal hours to exhaustion. I beg Providence that every individual may become harder and harder that this war may be borne to the end.'

Next comes the lament of the *Luftwaffe* (German Radio, May 9) :—

'No country can build up a bomb-proof net-work of night-fighter defence against air raids. Our people must be content that our night-fighters are hampering the enemy. I promise you that they will do their utmost to protect you. We are now using our finest planes and our crack pilots for this work. It is the beginning of their experience, but they are learning fast.'

Last comes the wail of the invincible German Army (Nazi Major Otto Nussdorf, May 12).

'The core of the Red Army is still intact—what the Germans destroyed in 1941 was merely a ring of protection consisting of second rate men and materials, which the Russians ruthlessly sacrificed to spare their main army for future battles. The remnants continue to fight. The main task of the German Army during this year is far more difficult than that during 1941.'

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'THE SECRET WEAPON' On May 12 the Germans announced that their success at KERCH was due to a new secret weapon described variously as 'a weapon of terrific heat, an assault boat, an air torpedo, a destructive shell, a mine thrower, a mine, a grenade, a tank and artificial fog.' The description depends on Goebbels' mood. The South Africans were told that the nature of the weapon could not be disclosed

The Finnish Radio 'disclosed' it to be a 'Tank'; Vichy called it 'an assault boat' and a German 'official' agency explained it to be ammunition which on exploding produced 300° of heat.

As one could easily see all this is cheap Nazi trickery practised, in sharperfashion in the hope of catching the unwary; because it has the fascination of mystery, the charm of surprise, the fear of sudden defeat and the hope of cheap victory.

'Surprise in fact has been a favourite method of warfare since Cain slew Abel, but the reason why secret weapons rarely succeed is that there is not much really that is new and when they are used for a time the opponent can devise ways of foiling them as we did the magnetic mine.'

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DARRE'S DISMISSAL. Richard Walther Darre, Reich Minister of Agriculture has been dismissed. Severe cold destroyed the potato crops last year, and the barley and wheat crops this year, due to no fault of Darre. To maintain his prestige, Hitler has made a scapegoat of him. But how this will help to grow more wheat or potatoes is not clear.

But this seems the fate awaiting Hitler's favourites: they are coddled for a time and cast off. Time was when Darre was belauded as the inventor of a new "peasant's gospel"—a new 'science of agriculture', in which the German peasantry became the 'new aristocracy'—'the life-source of the Nordic race', with 'hereditary peasant holdings.' He invented slogans such as 'The central point in Reich's population policy is blood and land', as well as the doctrine of race-breeding for which women were eugenically classified. He was also the man who advocated slavery in occupied EUROPE for the benefit of the Herrenvolk. To such a man, dismissal, under divine dispensation, may be a light punishment, but in Hitler's régime more is likely to follow.

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WAR AT SEA. A pair of anniversaries, and some declarations in the last two weeks, have focussed attention on the Allied sea achievements. AMERICA celebrated Maritime Day on May 22; BRITAIN her Empire Day on May 24. On May 26, Admiral Cunningham—recently transferred from his Mediterranean command declared, 'If we have learnt the lessons of 1940, 1941 and 1942, I have every confidence we shall rapidly and surely overwhelm the enemy.' Referring to Mediterranean achievements, he added that the warfare in this area was carried out in four stages, marked respectively by the blockade of the enemy, the discomfiture of ITALY, GERMANY's temporary air superiority and the present situation. The

British blockade preceded ITALY's entry into the war. ITALY's discomfiture began with the British sweep of the central Mediterranean, culminating in TARANTO. The arrival of the British aircraft-carriers the *Eagle* and the *Illustrious* reduced the Italian fleet to impotence.

When General Wavell destroyed the Italian army in LIBYA, the Germans rushed their aircraft into the Mediterranean area, to save their Italian allies from a major defeat. In this, the third stage, the Germans established a temporary air superiority, of which CRETE was the result, though at the same time ITALY was also taught a lesson at MATAPAN. At the present stage, in spite of the demands of the Far-East, the British fleet holds its sway over the Mediterranean, as was proved as recently as March, when Rear Admiral Sir Philip Vian drove his convoy through to MALTA, in the face of a numerically superior Italian Fleet. MALTA holds on unmindful of the daily visitations of the *Luftwaffe*.

Haw-Haw has come out with the lie that the British Empire has reached a 'precarious' position, owing to shipping losses on a 'calamitous scale', while the fact is that the total shipping losses of the United Nations are now smaller than twelve months ago. The best proof of the Allied Sea Command is perhaps the arrival of a large contingent of American troops at North IRELAND across the Atlantic.

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MEXICO'S DECLARATION OF WAR is a significant event and pointer. It means, in the first place, that the neighbours of the U. S. namely, MEXICO, GUATEMALA, HONDURAS, SALVADOR, COSTA RICA and PANAMA will be united in the defence of the Panama Canal, as well as that of the Caribbean Sea. The Caribbean bases are vital for the defence of both the Atlantic and the Pacific, because a sudden attack on the canal from the Atlantic side would prevent the transfer of the American Fleet to the Pacific. U. S. naval bases at PORTO RICO, GUANTANAMO (CUBA), PANAMA and SAN DIEGO will also receive additional strength by co-operation with the Mexican naval ports and bases at VERA CRUZ, LEGUNA DEL CARMEN, and TAMPO in the Atlantic, and MAZATLAN, MANZANILLO, South MARGARITA ISLAND and ACAPULCO in the Pacific.

Moreover MEXICO's entry is a proof of the world's confidence in the Allied cause, and of faith in ultimate Allied victory.

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H. R. H. THE DUKE OF GLOUCESTERS'S TOUR of the MIDDLE EAST has had a re-assuring effect on the Muslim States. In four weeks he visited all the Allied strategic strongholds in the Western Desert, in IRAQ, IRAN, PALESTINE, SYRIA and the LEBANON.

The enthusiastic reception which he received wherever he went was a clear manifestation of the Arab peoples' love for the democratic cause, as well as of their hatred of Fascist tyranny. The Egyptian Weekly *Al-Itnein* observed, 'the Duke's visit to EGYPT has further strengthened Anglo-Egyptian relations. His Royal Highness enjoys the love of all Allied and friendly peoples.'

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AXIS AND THE ARABS. In the face of such manifestations the Arab traitors—Rashid Ali and the ex-Mufti of JERUSALEM—are reported to have asked for Axis support, and Herr Von Ribbentrop to have recognised 'Arab independence' on behalf of the Axis. This is perfectly ridiculous. SAUDI ARABIA is already independent. Egyptian non-belligerency is proof of Egyptian independence. IRAQ is independent under the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of 1930. Last year SYRIA and the LEBANON were placed on the road to independence.

In reply to Ribbentrop's declarations to his hirelings, M. Yalchin, the Turkish Deputy asks in the *Yeni Sabah*:—

'Where is the Muslim kingdom of ALBANIA to-day ?

'What has become of CZECHOSLAVAKIA ? Has the object-lesson of POLAND been forgotten ? Did the Axis, which has guaranteed the freedom and independence of the Arab world, recognise the freedom and independence of the Arabs in LIBYA and TRIPOLITANIA ? Was not one of the reasons of the Italian entry into the war the desire to snatch away TUNIS from FRANCE ? Did ITALY desire TUNIS simply to give freedom and independence to that country ? Or was it rather to enlarge her Arab-inhabited North African colony ?

Al Hawadith of Baghdad writes :—

" Arabs, Jews, and Negroes are forbidden to cross the boundaries between occupied and unoccupied FRANCE. How shall the Arabs interpret this ? Does the Nazi execution of Arabs and Muslims agree with their protestation of sympathy with the Arabs ?"

Apeing her western partner, JAPAN also talks of making an approach to the Muslim world 'through the adoption of a strong religious, political, and economic policy'. But it is too late to deceive the world. Here are two extracts showing what the MIDDLE EAST thinks of Japanese intentions:—

All Dastur, Cairo, May 14 :—" **By nature the Japanese hate all strangers, and fight all religious creeds except their own.** Nowadays, Japanese broadcasts flatter Muslims with gestures of hypocritical homage to Islam, which in reality is subjected to every sort of savagery in Japan and the Japanese occupied countries.

"The Japanese authorities have refused to exempt mosques from duties as is the case in all countries of the world. Many mosques have also been closed by the Japanese authorities and transformed into military objectives. **The Muslim world will never agree to co-operate with these barbarians, because Islam's doctrines cannot be reconciled with their dictatorial and savage principles."**

Al Alam al Arabi, Iraq, March 4:—"How can they (Muslims in the Far East) exchange the traditional freedom of thought and of religion they enjoy under American, Dutch and British rule for the Japanese paganism, religious savagery, persecution, hatred and despotism?

"**How can the worshippers of God support the Japanese, bear their rule and domination, and surrender to their atheistic and sacriligious demands? How can they, their necks being under the sword, regard the Mikado and his idols as divinities able to destroy and to give life?** For these reasons the Muslims have risen, as one man, to fight this danger with magnanimity and sacred loyalty".

NATIONAL WAR FRONT.

MILLING OF RICE IS WASTEFUL.

MADRAS GOVERNMENT'S ADVICE TO CONSUMERS.

If all paddy is hand-pounded instead of being milled, an additional 200,000 tons of rice will be available in this province, and production by mills of under-milled or once-polished rice for local consumption will have similar effect.

India has not been self-sufficient in recent years in regard to her rice requirements. During the last 10 years her imports of rice, mainly from Burma, Thailand and Indo-China, have ranged from 1.1 million to 2.6 million tons annually. Of these, this Province has absorbed 5 to 7 lakhs, about 10 per cent. of its requirements. While these imports have ceased, the war has necessitated increased exports from the Madras Presidency to Ceylon and other places. The question of increasing the food supplies of this country has therefore become urgent. A conference held at New Delhi on April 6 recommended, among other things, that Provincial Governments should take steps to encourage the use of hand-pounded and under-milled rice in the place of highly-milled rice, so that existing supplies of rice may go further, and also take the opportunity afforded by the present food production drive to instruct the consumer to secure for himself a more balanced diet.

ADDITIONAL SUPPLY.

The advantages of hand-pounding are twofold. First, it yields grain of higher nutritive value, and second, we obtain in this way about 6 per cent more rice for consumption.

One change which has been found to improve the nutritive value of rice diets is the replacement of part of the rice by millets—e. g., cholam, cumbu, ragi and tenai (Italian millet). These are good "supplementary" foods. If they can be produced in greater quantities, they can replace equal quantities of rice with advantage from the stand-point of nutrition. About 5 ozs. of millet in the place of an equivalent quantity of rice is recommended. The substitution of some millet for machine-milled raw rice in certain parts of the Northern Circars had had a good effect on health, and has apparently led to a fall in the incidence of beriberi, as the millets contain more vitamin B1 than milled rice.

IT CAN HAPPEN HERE.

By

Kenneth Bindoff.

(With acknowledgments to the Illustrated Weekly of India).

The writer of this article is a former London journalist who watched the re-action of the British public to the threat of invasion in 1940. Now he has arrived in India, at a time when the people of this Country are faced by the same fears and doubts. He shows how courage and determination can become powerful weapons in a nation's defence.

When, in the early summer of 1940, the great tidal wave of German aggression swept across France and engulfed the channel ports, Great Britain faced a situation similar to that with which India is confronted to-day.

It was possible that a cruel and ruthless enemy, drunk with the wine of initial successes, might be tempted to stake all on one gigantic throw—a full-scale invasion by sea and air.

The immediate reaction of the man-in-the-street was one of stunned incre-dulity. It was impossible! For centuries the shores of Britain had been inviolate. Invasion? Absurd!

But if the ordinary citizen had been taken by surprise he lost no time in reflection and recriminations. Action was needed, not by the Government or the Services only, but by *everybody*. And action there was!

Quietly, without fuss or panic, the civilian population pressed forward with their preparations, all of which were calculated to give the greatest possible aid to the Services who would be battling desperately on the seas, in the air, and on the land, if the great gamble was attempted.

At the time of Dunkirk, when every craft capable of floating, and every man able to hold a tiller or coax a marine engine, became a messenger of mercy to the soldiers on the beaches, I was on that part of English coast nearest to France—the white cliffs of Dover. From the vantage point I was well placed to witness the transformation which the fall of France brought about.

Gone was the easy optimism. With the capture of the Channel ports, the enemy was at the door and nobody knew how soon he would begin battering upon it. Military plans, which have no place in the article, received the co-operation of the civilian population. Everybody was united in one great purpose—to hurl back the invader into the sea.

The first step was to get out of the threatened areas all children, old folk, and other people who would be a hindrance rather than a help if fighting broke out. Instructions published by local authorities were loyally obeyed, and hundreds of special trains sped to safer areas. For those who could not afford rail-fares free vouchers were issued, but it was made clear that if the situation improved, and the recipients were tempted to return home, the privilege could not be repeated.

NO RETREAT.

At the same time, a schedule of workers employed in essential services, who were expected to remain at their posts, was published. These included local Government officials, employees of gas, electricity and water undertakings, men and women in the food-distributing trades, doctors, bank officials, and, of course, wardens, A. F. S. personnel, ambulance and stretcher parties, demolition squads, special constables, and others who had given their promise to serve their country in the civil defence organisations.

It was understood by these workers that there was no retreat for them. They were as much front-line troops as the soldier peering along the sights of his rifle, the airman tearing German bombers out of the sky, or the sailor guarding the hazardous seaways.

There must be no repetition of the mass-murder on the French roads, when military columns moving towards the front were hampered by piles of civilian dead who had been bombed and machine-gunned as they fled. "Stay put" was the motto of every "essential" civilian.

Hoarding was sternly discouraged, but every family which remained was advised to lay in a small reserve of food, sufficient to cover the interval before Government emergency feeding-plans in the event of invasion could be put into operation. In areas most likely to suffer devastation, communal feeding-centres came into being.

The decks were now cleared for action. Only a few days had elapsed since the fall of France, but a terrific amount had been achieved and all that remained was to await the blow.

How would it be delivered? Where would it fall? What would be the reaction of the civilian population to it? Would the present spirit of calmness and confidence prevail, or would there be panic? The fate of a nation, perhaps of the whole world, depended on the answers to these questions, just as much as on the bravery and skill of the fighting men.

> **"There are three main requirements for effective defence against air attack—fighter aircraft and A. A. guns; A.R.P. arrangements; and the spirit and discipline of the people. And of these three, the last is the most important."** —***Gen. Wavell.***

FIRST HAMMER-BLOW.

And then the first hammer blow was struck. From bases only 22 miles across the Channel came the first heralds of invasion, vast numbers of bombers whose aim it was to blast and batter a way for the barges gathering at the ports. By day and by night thousands of tons of high explosive rained down on town and countryside. Hospitals, churches, city streets, farmsteads, town houses and rural cottages—everything was considered a fair target by pilots directing their attack against the morale of the civilian population.

The attacks were pressed home with all the ferocity and fury of which the enemy was capable, but the man-in-the-street stood firm. At holiday resorts, where bathers where accustomed to frolic, Death was the only visitor now. Where once there had been fine buildings there was devastation on every hand.

In a single raid on Ramsgate, a town with a peace-time population of 40,000, over 1,700 houses were destroyed. At Dover, shells from German long-range guns fell into the town, adding to the havoc created by the bombers. But everywhere life went on. It was still possible to eat a meal in a restaurant, road and rail transport continued to run, there were still cinemas and dances for those snatching a brief hour's relaxation from the struggle.

In the fields the harvesters, girls and old men, hardy sons of the soil who required more than "that young upstart Hitler" to budge them, toiled gathering in the precious grain. High above, in the clear blue sky, the Great

Reaper was at work, too, and machine-gun bullets fell all around as the corn was borne home.

Bravery was no longer confined to the battlefield. Every home, every field, every garden was a battlefield. And every man was a front-line soldier

The men in uniform felt a quiet pride in this heroic "civilian army" whose only weapon was courage—a weapon which is not confined to any one race, or colour, or creed. And because of this pride the men in uniform fought the better.

The result, everybody knows—the Spitfires and Hurricanes pursuing a once-proud *Luftwaffe*, the barges which never sailed, the hopes born in the black heart of a dictator and condemned to bitter frustration.

This was a victory achieved not by weapons of war alone, but by a determination on the part of the ordinary man to "stay put", to stand firm in the defence of his home and family, and, if necessary, to die for these ideals.

SHE "STAYED PUT".

I cannot do better than end with the words of a frail little old lady, spoken to me after one particularly bad "blitz".

Mrs. F. H. Treweeks, of Ramsgate, was one of those people we usually expect a puff of wind to blow away. She had recently recovered from a serious illness, and I fully expected that she would have left for a safer area, but not a bit of it.

Mr. Treweeks was in the Home Guard, their daughter was doing work of national importance, and if she had gone one, or the other of them would have had to spend more time looking after the family business, thus reducing their contribution to the war effort.

Nearly 300 incendiary bombs had been dropped in their street the night before, so it was not surprising that the Treweeks family looked tired the following morning.

ACTION PREFERRED.

"You must have been in the shelter a long time", I said when Mrs. Treweeks told me about the raid.

"Shelter? Not likely!" she replied. "My husband was on guard all night, so my daughter and I tried to see who could extinguish the greater number of bombs. Some of them fell on roofs, and we had to climb to reach them, but I won—14 bombs to Freda's 10," she added proudly.

"But does not all this bombing frighten you?" I asked.

"It did at one time", she confessed, "but that was before the big raids started. The anticipation was very much worse than the reality. After all, a bomb has only a limited range of destruction. I take up only a small space on the earth's surface, and the chance of both a bomb and myself being at the same spot at the same time is even smaller still, is it not?"

SUPPLIES TO SOVIET ARE NOT WASTED.

SCENES ON MURMANSK-MOSCOW RAILWAY.

RISKS OF CONVOYING FULLY JUSTIFIED.

HANDLING OF WAR MATERIAL—A "STUPENDOUS SIGHT".

By

Negley Farson.

The Daily Mail's Special Correspondant, Returned from Russia.

(Received from London by Cable.)

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Give the Russians every tank, gun and aeroplane that the Allies can spare. The Red Army will use them intelligently and intensively to the utmost limit of their capacities.

That is my outstanding conviction after a few months as an eye-witness in the Soviet. The Russians intend to fight this war to a finish, and nothing we can send them will be wasted.

I was ten days getting from Moscow to Murmansk on my journey back here. There were one or two days when I think my train did not move 50 miles. We spent most of our time on sidings. They were infuriating delays because I was trying to catch a convoy.

Yet on all those long waits, with the train full of Russian army and naval officers, we learned one thing : human freight does not count against the war materials that come down in train after train from convoys that have just reached Russia by the Arctic.

It was a terrific sight to see the flat trucks trundle past—loaded with crated aeroplanes, with tanks under tarpaulins, with fresh boxes bearing stencilled names of British and American machine-tool manufacturers.

Also, at a junction 1,000 kilometres from Moscow, and another 1,000 from Murmansk, I had to wait for two days—days when, in my impatience, I would watch truck after truck being unloaded by swarms of husky Russians who are doing the whole job with their muscles, without cranes or derricks. They even shunted cars along the tracks just by pushing them. It was a stupendous sight—a sight that simply hit you with the knowledge that the British and American supplies to Russia are fully appreciated.

I saw some scenes of furious energy in Murmansk—in that highly congested dock area where during the fiercest air raids girl sentries on duty over warehouses never left their posts. There just is not anything that the Russians will allow to stand in the way of getting these war weapons down into Russia—and into action.

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I happened to go to Russia on a convoy. The ships were loaded with tanks and planes. It seemed to us, as we watched all the activity that followed our arrival, that the Russians could hardly wait to get the hatches open. One skipper told me that it pleased him to know that the risks his crew and ships ran were so obviously justified.

That is a vital point. It is no picnic getting these supplies into Russia. No one who has been on the job will ever deny that. But the interesting thing is that he will also tell you, perhaps with a growl, that he will soon be on the way out to Russia again. **This carrying on of British seamen is one of the finest things in all British-Russian co-operation.**

GERMANY'S ECONOMIC NEEDS AND VICHY CHANGES?
LAVAL'S ROLE AS "PURVEYOR-CUM-POLICEMAN".
RESOURCES OF OCCUPIED EUROPE.

by

Donald Tyerman

(*In a recent B. B. C. talk.*)

The changes in France have mostly been interpreted in terms of Germany's military needs—the need to defend French territory against Allied attacks, and the need for French naval assistance.

But there is also something very like a crisis in the economy, the industrial and agricultural life, of German-controlled Europe. **From outside it is blockaded by the Allies; from inside, it has been sucked dry of its resources to supply the German war machine.**

Europe, as a whole, is short of resources. All the countries, including Germany, need the same things–man–power, materials, machinery, coal, oil, transport facilities and food supplies—and Germany's needs come first. The colossal drain of the Russian war has eaten up Europe's stocks and reserves, and disrupted and dislocated Germany's plan to make the European continent into a self-sufficient collection of countries producing complementary things.

A great effort has been made to produce war-material. Much of it has been made for use this spring, but as a result, there is not enough of other things to go round.

GERMANY'S NEEDS.

By now, the German crisis in man-power is well-known; the armies in the East are being eked out by the so-called allies forced in; German factories and

farms have more and more to be manned by foreign prisoners of war; and workers brought in from other countries for the manufacture of more and more substitute materials, and the use of more and more low grade metal ores. will together enormously increase the German demands for coal and coke, And stocks of raw materials and foodstuffs have to a large extent run out. Germany looks increasingly to the rest of Europe to make up the deficiencies, and the rest of Europe, including France, is in an even worse plight in these respects than Germany.

Food is one example, for Germany now has to rely on her current production to feed herself, which she can just about do, but she has no fertilizers and no machinery to spare for the rest of Europe's agriculture; no fuel-oil or lubricating oil for farming equipment; no transport facilities to carry food from place to place outside Germany.

More than that, there is Germany's demand for man-power; the prisoners of war she has got, and the workers she has imported, tot up the agricultural labour force of the rest of Europe.

CHANGED CONDITIONS.

France lacks raw materials, fuel and transport facilities, and these deficiencies are made much worse by the demands of the Germans. The Germans control all the heavy industry of Western Europe; they hold and dole out the iron and steel, the coal, the petrol, the oil and the few imported raw materials that still remain in reserve.

France is in a bad way. In normal times France has enough iron ore to furnish a large iron and steel industry; the scrap, in peace time, she used to export. Now, it is very different. Most of France's heavy industry is in the parts of France occupied by the Germans; it works for the Germans; the Germans get first priority for all materials, and smaller and smaller quotas are allowed for the needs of the French people and of Unoccupied France.

The position with regard to fuel is even worse. The crux is coal, and before the war France used to import, mainly from Britain, one-third of the coal she consumed. Now that has gone. And of France's own coal resources, two-thirds is in Occupied France, and about one-sixth in Lorraine, which has gone back to Germany. This means that most of France's home resources of coal are used first to satisfy German needs. And Germany's own needs are large and growing all the time. The Germans have promised to send coal to French industries, and some they have had sent, but it goes first to French factories working on German orders.

TRANSPORT DIFFICULTIES.

And it is by no means easy to transport and distribute coal in France. The Germans took away one-third of the rolling stock of the railways for their

own needs. Coal is lacking for locomotives; petrol and oil are lacking for road transport; and one of the main reasons why Germany has been able to carry on very well, with her limited petrol and oil stocks, has been the way in which all but German needs throughout Europe have been rationed almost out of existence.

Now, all this is cumulative; lack of raw materials, fuel, lubricating oil and so on, means that the French industries that are working, including agriculture become less and less efficient: the output dwindles.

In French coal mining, the French are entirely dependent upon the Germans for mining equipment; they are short of miners, too. The Poles and other foreign workers who used to work in French coal mines have gone. The majority of France's own skilled miners are prisoners of war, working in German coal mines, and those working in French mines work less and less effectively because they are short of food.

WORSENING SITUATION.

There are strikes and discontent. Working class households short of fuel and food are not the best basis for hard work. Thus the situation of France gets wors and worse, as Germany's own problems increase. Factories in France are bein closed down for lack of fuel and raw materials which the Germans cannot spare and their workers are being sent to Germany.

There is not enough shipping in the Mediterranean to bring in both food and raw materials, and food must come first; the shortage in French farm workers, horses and machinery makes this absolutely necessary. What raw materials are shipped across go either to Germany or to the French factories that are working on German orders.

This is the economic background for the return of Laval. It is his job, in one way or another, to put the screw on more and more, and it is his job, too, to see that the French people take it. He is a combination of *purveyor and policeman.*

SALIENT FEATURES OF CORAL SEA BATTLE.
PROMINENT ROLE OF AIR ARM.

by

H. C. Ferraby.

The world has had long to wait for any details of the operations in the Coral Sea. In these days of wireless, such delay tends to arouse in the public mind a sense of mystery and suspicion that information is being suppressed because it is sinister.

In the case, however, of the encounters in the Coral Sea between the forces of the United Nations and the expedition which the Japanese were escorting, the reason for prolonged silence appears quite definitely to have been strategical. It is important to note that after the first two or three bulletins about the outset of the operations both sides fell silent.

Both found it necessary to conceal its movements and intentions from the adversary. From which it is a simple deduction that the so-called battle was not a short, sharp encounter like the Battle of the River Plate or the Battle of Matapan, but was actually a campaign of some duration.

It is not yet possible, therefore, to present a considered survey of the events, and the most we can do at the moment is to examine such facts as have emerged, and try to get them into their relative order of importance.

A NEW FACTOR.

The first point to be noted is, that during the first two or three days of the month of May, aerial scouting had discovered that a big concentration of Japanese naval units and transport elements was assembled in the neighbourhood of the Solomon Islands. This point is important, because it reminds us how the growth of the air arm has made much more difficult than ever before that secrecy of movement by sea, which was one of the outstanding factors in naval tactics.

Fleets of warships and convoys of transports to-day can be kept under observation at a range of 500 miles, whereas before the coming of the air-arm the limit of visual contact was about 20 miles. This new factor obviously plays a great part in all the problems of sea-borne invasion.

It is all the more remarkable tribute to the British sea and air-power, therefore, that the British force sent to Madagascar was eight weeks on the way, and got through unmolested and accomplished its purpose.

The second point that emerges is, that once the Japanese concentration was on the move, the Allied Commander-in-Chief was able to interfere with it by means of torpedo-bombing attacks. The action on May 4, which was first reported by the United States Navy Department, appears to have been entirely aerial on the Allies' side. No mention was made in the American bulletin of action by any of their warships that day, and the only losses they mentioned were three aircraft.

The probability that this was the case is borne out by the fact that no further encounter took place for 48 hours. Had the Anzac Zone Fleet of the United Nations been actually in contact with the Japanese force on May 4, any such prolonged pause in the operations would have been unlikely at that stage.

JAPANESE CLAIMS DENIED.

The Japanese Admiralty put out an impressive list of claims, but belief in it was rudely shaken when London promptly pointed out that no British battleship of the *Warspite* class had been sunk or damaged as Tokyo had announced, and was finally dispelled after the American dementi.

There was only one word in the published bulletins which gave any indication of the outcome of this first clash. General MacArthur's headquarters stated that the enemy had been "repulsed". Since the Japanese had probably been heading for their objective for two days after the first aerial attack, that word "repulsed" could only mean that they had been forced to turn in their tracks and to abandon, for the time being at any rate, whatever enterprise it was that they had in view.

HEADLONG DISPERSAL.

And, as the hours passed and the silence remained unbroken, the conviction grew among students of naval warfare that the first phase of operations had certainly resulted in such a "repulse" of the Japanese force as may well have occasioned a headlong dispersal of the convoy. Such a move by his enemy, would have forced upon the American Admiral a series of mopping-up operations and minor engagements in widely separated parts of the Coral Sea.

Details of these would only become known to him piecemeal, and indeed might not reach him for many days, since all his ships would be observing wireless silence, in order to conceal their exact whereabouts from the Japanese wreless directional-finding system.

The outstanding feature of the operations that we can already notice is the very considerable use made by both sides of aircraft for attack. This is the first engagement in naval history in which the air-arm has played so prominent a part.

EFFECT OF THREE-ARMED WARFARE.

MILITARY VICTORY THROUGH ECONOMIC ATTRITION.

by

Major-General Sir Charles Gwynn (*From London by Special Cable.*)

Reports are rife that the Germans will not be able to launch the spring offensive as early as had been intended, partly owing to difficulties on their lines of communications, and partly owing to the exhausted condition of their troops after their winter experiences. The tone of Hitler's speech in the Reichstag certainly seems to indicate that plans have not worked out as he intended.

The continued ascendancy of the Russian air-force must be particularly disturbing to him, especially now that the intensification of R. A. F. attacks has forced him not only to retain a large part of the *Luftwaffe* in the west for defensive duties, but to initiate reprisals which he had evidently been advised not to undertake. **More than ever in the air he is engaged in a war on two fronts.**

AIR ACTION ALONE NOT ENOUGH.

Impressive as R. A. F. operations have been, it should not be assumed that air-action alone can achieve decisive results. Where I think satisfaction from the intensification of air-operations can be derived is that now, for the first time, the Germans are feeling the effects *in the economic sphere of combined sea, air and land warfare.* **This is a long war, and the longer wars continue between opponents with vast man-power and resources, the greater is the probability that economic exhaustion will prove the main factor in opening the way for a purely military death blow.**

Germany, when she entered the war, was like an overflowing bath with hot and cold water taps running and the plug in position. Blockade at once checked the flow of the cold water of supplies from external sources, but air action has up to date never been sufficient to affect materially the hot water supply from internal resources and productive capacity. More important still, in her earlier campaigns Germany never met an opponent strong enough to pull out the plug, by forcing her to expend vast quantities of material needed in land warfare. Now sea power has screwed down the cold water tap pretty tightly, and air power is affecting the hot water flow probably as much by disturbance and moral effect as by destruction.

RUSSIAN LAND CAMPAIGN.

It is, however, the Russian land campaign that has been the main instrument in shifting the plug from its setting, and the water is draining away fast. All three weapons the Allies have at their command are now in operation, and economic attrition acting on resources and labour is taking effect. The process is far from complete, but the time when a decisive military blow can be struck effectively may be nearer than many believe.

Meanwhile it is obvious, that though all three weapons contribute to victory, it is their combined effects that prepare the way for it. Intensification of air attacks is all the more important, because obviously its moral effect has compelled Hitler to adopt a course of action which he must have been advised was a waste of effort and resources. **Much as we deplore the loss of life and the destruction of cherished monuments caused by the reprisals, they are sacrifices that must be made, and defence has proved that reprisals are a costly as well as a dispersion force.**

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942—

LECTURE XCVIII—(*Batch 5*).

June ...	6, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m
	7, Sunday ...	Tiruvarangulam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vamban ...	6.30 p. m.
	8, Monday ...	Malaikkudippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Tulaiyanur ...	6.30 p. m.
	9, Tuesday ...	Kulavoipatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilaiyur (South) ...	6.30 p. m.
	10, Wednesday.	Vellanur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Sembattur ...	6.30 p. m.
	11, Thursday ...	Puliyur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi ...	6.30 p. m.
	12, Friday ...	Pallivasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE XCIX—(*Batch 1*).

	14, Sunday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
		Puvarasakudi ...	6.00 p. m.
		Venkatakulam ...	6.30 p. m.
	15, Monday ...	Tirumayyam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Melur ...	6.30 p. m.
	16, Tuesday ...	Perungalur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
	17, Wednesday.	Arimalam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilanilaikkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
	18, Thursday ...	Udayalippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Killukottai ...	6.30 p. m.
	19, Friday ...	Ambukkovil ...	6.00 p. m.
		Raghunathapuram ...	6.30 p. m.

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